

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claims 7-10, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Amended) A composite carbon fiber material comprising:

a central layer formed of a plurality of carbon fibers longitudinally aligned in the same direction and adhered to one another by an electrically conductive resin matrix so as to form a sheet;

a first nonwoven carbon fiber mat arranged on a first flat surface of the sheet forming the central layer;

a second nonwoven carbon fiber mat arranged on a second flat surface of the sheet forming the central layer;

a first layer of thermoplastic resin applied to an exterior surface of the first nonwoven carbon fiber mat opposite the central layer so as to penetrate to the first flat surface of the central layer; and

a second layer of thermoplastic resin applied to an exterior surface of the second nonwoven carbon fiber mat opposite the central layer so as to penetrate to the second flat surface of the central layer.

--3. (Amended) A composite carbon fiber material

comprising:

a plurality of central layers each formed of a plurality of carbon fibers, wherein the carbon fibers in each layer are longitudinally aligned in the same direction, wherein the plurality of carbon fibers in each layer are adhered to one another by an electrically conductive resin matrix, and wherein the plurality of layers are superimposed on each other and mutually adhered by a thermoplastic resin, so as to form a composite layer;

a first nonwoven carbon fiber mat arranged on a first external flat surface of the composite layer;

a first layer of thermoplastic resin applied to an external surface of the first nonwoven carbon mat so as to penetrate therethrough to the first external flat surface of the composite layer; and

a second layer of thermoplastic resin applied to an external surface of the second nonwoven carbon fiber mat so as to penetrate therethrough to the second external flat surface of composite layer.

--5. (Amended) The composite carbon fiber material according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of central layers forming the composite layer comprises a first layer and a second layer, the first layer having the plurality of carbon fibers thereof longitudinally arranged in a first direction

and the second layer having the plurality of carbon fibers thereof longitudinally arranged in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

--6. (Amended) The composite carbon fiber material according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of central layers forming the composite layer comprises a first layer and a second layer, and further comprising a third nonwoven carbon fiber mat juxtaposed and adhered between internal flat surfaces of the first central layer and the second central layer.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 remain in the application with claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 having been amended hereby and claims 7-10 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

By the cancellation of nonelected claims 7-10, applicants have reiterated the election to prosecute claims 1-6 in this application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Hamon in view of Lennox et al. and Litant.

As described in the present specification, the present invention is intended to provide a composite carbon fiber